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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/652,119	08/29/2003	David L. Dean JR.	HE0205	1840
21495	7590	11/07/2005	EXAMINER	
CORNING CABLE SYSTEMS LLC			PRASAD, CHANDRIKA	
P O BOX 489			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
HICKORY, NC 28603			2839	

DATE MAILED: 11/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

AK

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/652,119	DEAN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Chandrika Prasad	2839	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Appeal Brief

1. In response to the appeal brief filed 10/12/05, prosecution of this application is reopened. A new office action follows. Any inconveniences caused by this action are deeply regretted.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Measuring a reference plane and measuring the plane defined by a portion of the end face are not clear.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Luther et al. (5867621).

Luther (Figures 1-6) shows a multifiber ferrule 38 with a molded ferrule body having a smaller end face 48 with a plurality of bores 52 for receiving ends of optical

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fibers, at least one opening 50a for receiving alignment members and defining a longitudinal axis wherein the ferrule body comprises an integrally formed geometrical reference feature between the smaller end face 48 and a larger end face 48 as well as a sloped planar surface or the ferrule end 32 recessed from the end face 48 wherein the end face is not machined. The surface of the smaller end face 48 as well as ferrule end 32 are perpendicular to the axis and the sloped surface is at angle to the axis. The sloped surface provides visual measurements for aligning purposes. The sloped surface forms a bumper extending from the end face 48 of the ferrule. The ferrule body also has a recessed feature formed by body elements 34 and end face 44. The geometrical reference feature is within an opening in the body and is not altered through the useful life of the ferrule. The planes defined by the end face 48 and sloped surface define an angle.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Luther et al. (5867621).

Luther shows all the features of these claims as described above except a second ferrule. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the instant invention to provide a plurality of ferrules because this would require a

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mere duplication of essential parts, which involve only routine skill in the art. St. Regis Co. vs. Bemis co., 193 USPQ 8.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments filed 10/12/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The applicant argues that Luther provides Nagasawa et al. as examples of MTP connectors that could be used with the Luther adapter, and that Nagasawa et al. do imply that all MTP connectors are polished. The examiner disagrees. Luther does not explicitly disclose that Luther's adapter is limited to the use of MTP connectors and Nagasawa et al. do not explicitly disclose that all MTP connectors are polished. Furthermore, none of claims refer to any MTP connector. The examiner did not find any such disclosure in Nagasawa. Determination of angularity of an end face defined by geometrical feature and visual observation is common knowledge.

Furthermore, Pitassi et al. (National Optic Engineers Conference, June 18-22, 1995, pages 659-670) teaches an optical connector with a molded ferrule where the end face is not machined. Therefore, the applicant's argument that all optical ferrules before the date of his/her application were polished/machined is unfounded.

Contact Information

9. Any correspondence to this action may be mailed to:

**Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

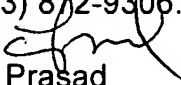
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chandrika Prasad at (571) 272-2099. If attempts to

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reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor can be reached at (571) 272-2800 ext 39. The fax number is (703) 872-9306.


Chandrika Prasad
Primary examiner
November 3, 2005